

A recent survey by Gallup who compile the UK record charts for the BBC and the trade paper Music Week shows that a majority of Singles sold in the UK are bought by people in the 11/12 to 18 age group. The result is that a small group of teenagers are deciding the airplay of a majority of radio stations during daytime even though they are mostly at school and unable to listen themselves - Could this be what is wrong with Radio in the United Kingdom. The same survey showed that over the past five years sales of singles have steadily fallen, especially at the top of the charts. Meantime many people are buying their music in Cassette, Record or Compact Disc form. Record companies however continue to use the single on which they make little profit to promote the sale of the money making albums.

Your editor received a nasty shock when he recently visited his local record shop, with Albums priced at £8.99 for just the one record. A definite effort to turn people to Compact Discs without bringing the price of the silver beer mats down.

Radio Cambridgeshire Presenter John Richards has a problem. After ten years in local radio he believes that the record company rep is now extinct. John recalls the days when he and other colleagues were invited to the local pub where the record company would supply drinks, a chance to hear new music, meet the artists and receive promotional copies of the said performers new releases. These record company giveaways were then played on air and also given away to listeners in competitions. So maybe the PPL are not the only bad guys.

Johnnie Walker played the new single by Clarence Carter during his Stereo sequence programme on March 19th. Clarence is known for the Caroline Classic 'Patches'. The new single 'Strokin' was dedicated to former members of the Caroline Johnnie Walker Kiss in the Car club and Frinton Flashers, although no actual namecheck to his former radio station was given.

Our item on Free Radio Infolines does not appear to have gone by unnoticed. Steve Harper who operates the Anoraks UK infoline from his Isle of Sheppey home told us "I was nearly so vague that I forgot to Re-Subscribe.

Now Radio have NOW changed their phone number for their infoline to one of the Telecom '0898' numbers, which as we mentioned gives a percentage to the operator. The new number is 0898 654 385, the service now runs for a full 24 hours and is updated at 3pm each day.

There are plenty of staff on the move at BBC Radio One DLT - Dave Lee Travis is leaving his £30,000 job having been told by his BBC bosses that he waffles too much. On those grounds the rest of the corporations DJs should soon be on the move as well. Lave will be trying his hand at ILR, and although he is doubling his fee- to £60,000 he should not have too many problems in finding a new employer. ILR has already given good homes to Pete Murray, Paul Burnett and Ed Stewart, none of who can complain.

Another former BEC name David Hamilton has had some harsh words for those left at Radio Two the network he left last year to join Radio 210 in Reading, as well as supplying syndicated programmes elsewhere. David is quoted as saying "It would be charitable to say that Radio Two's music policy had become geriatric. There's only so much Vera Lynn and Max Bygraves you can play." This leaves a large gap between Radio One and Two a space perhaps for one of the new National networks?

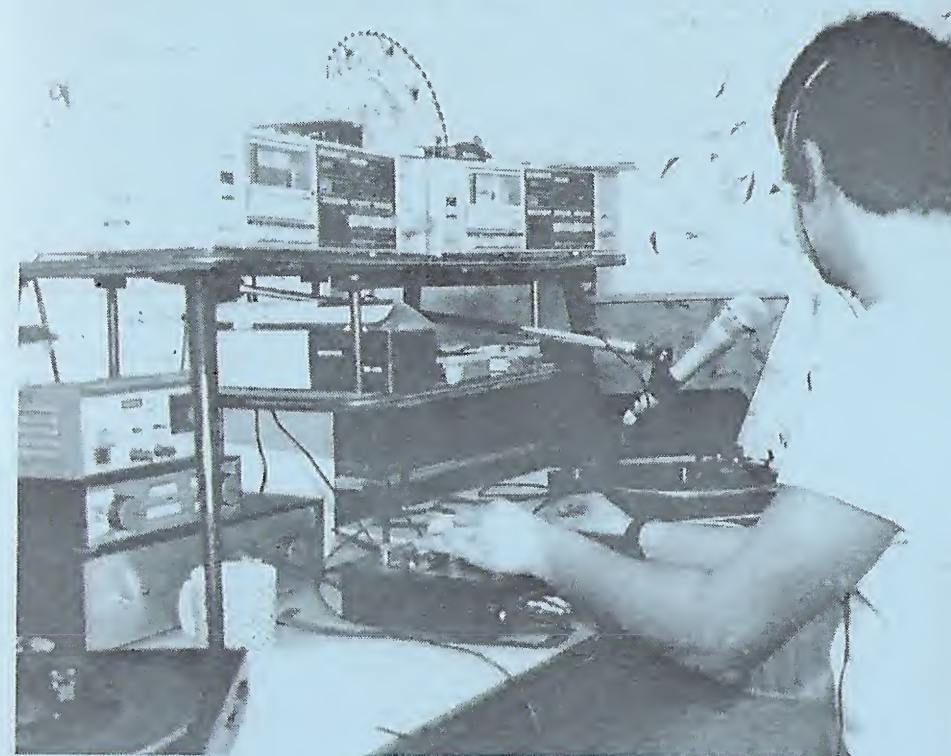
LATE NEWS:

Radio Monique will not now be returning to the Ross Revenge. Many former staff are now involved with the Dutch Satellite One station. The Carbon Fibre aerial has been damaged, but a repair attempt is to be made by Peter Chicago. Full Details in Wavelength 22.

WAVELENGTH

APRIL·MAY 1988

No.21



Po Box 5, Hunstanton, Norfolk, PE36 5AU.

WAVELENGTH

April/May 1988 - Number Twenty-One.

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The Sideways look at Free Radio.

FRONT ILLUSTRATION: Andy Walker in flight on WFRL, Christmas 1987.
Photograph by David Shelley.

DIY Radio and Confessions of An Anorak appear next issue.

YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION

United Kingdom - £4.00
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Rest of the World - £4.90/ 20 International Reply Coupons

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COPYDATE FOR NUMBER TWENTY-TWO is May 31st,1988

M.V. ROSS REVENGE

Monday February 15th,1988.

Caroline 558 made an announced closedown at 0900 in the morning after Peter Phillips had completed his Breakfast Show, the reason was tweaking the newly installed aerial system. The station remained off the air until that evening when, following Test Tones and some continuous music James Day opened the station at 2100. It was however two new presenters who programmed these hours, firstly Robbie Jay, then at 0100 American, Alex, who deprived us, and himself of a surname. The new schedule unfolded the next day, and read;

0500 Peter Phillips
0900 James Day
1300 Richard Lee
1700 Robbie Jay
2100 Alex
0100 Closedown.

The news was handled amongst the staff on board. On February 20th James Day commented that Peter(Chicago) was playing with hundreds of feet of cable beneath the 558 studio. The result of this was to be heard later the next week. After being off the air on February 21st (Sunday) the hits resumed the following day, then on the 23rd tests from the much awaited Short wave service commenced on 6210 at around 1000. The 24th saw a break in transmissions at 1042, during wintry showers, programming resumed at 1758.

February 25th brought a change of staff and a revision of the schedule which included the return of Steve Conway, now in the capacity of Deputy Programme Controller following the departure of Kevin Turner to Ocean Sound. Also back was Chris Kennedy , Steve Masters and Mike Watts who took up engineering duties once more. The weekday schedule read;

0500 Chris Kennedy
0900 Robbie Jay
1300 Steve Conway
1700 Steve Masters
2100 Alex
0300 Steve Masters

The 24 hour schedule was reinstated with Alex and Steve Masters drawing the short straws to provide the extra programme, however from Friday to Sunday Mike Watts programmed from 0100 to 0500. Mondays are traditionally used as maintenance night. With Steve Conway now programming during the afternoon news duties continued to be shared amongst the staff.

On March 6th the Shortwave service, which had been relaying the 558 service, separated with Steve Masters and Mike Watts, joined by other members of the crew. They programmed some classic oldies mixed with some Loving Awareness jingles, which brought a refreshing change, however at 1200, and again at 1330 it was announced that the shortwave service would leave the air and listen for reception reports on 6210, and adjacent frequencies. An undisguised call to the Sunday morning operators who regularly use the 48 metre band. Many such stations answered the call including Nick Thomas of Radio Atlantis Short Wave, Radio Freedom from the East Midlands, PFBS, WLR were all on 6210, whilst Radio Kristel on 6225 and Radio Pacman on 6220 all called up in the hope of talking with those on the radio ship. It was almost like Christmas. All however were disappointed as Mike Watts took to the air at 1430 and explained that because of the 558 signal they could not hear all of the stations plainly. He did however thank them for their reception reports. The test however was not official, and angered those on land including Peter Phillips and Peter Chicago who knew nothing of the test until it went out. It was not the kind of exercise which could really be attributed to a so-called

professional radio station, especially bearing in mind the religious broadcasters who are hoping to use the Short Wave service once fully tested.

The French airforce were in flight about the South Falls on March 7th according to comments made by Steve Masters during his programme. The next day there were some revisions in the schedule with Chris Kennedy being relieved at 0630 by Steve Conway.

In late March there were a number of rearrangements in the schedule and days on which the station went off the air for short periods. One such date was March 22nd when Steve Conway switched shows with Steve Masters. The cause of the schedule changes appears to have been a lack of sea crew on board from comments made on air. The shortwave service, continued although on some days was missing from the air. At times though it continued through short breaks on 558.

The Weather in the South Falls was unkind on March 29th and the ship proceeded to turn regularly. As usual the anchor alarm decided to go off during the news (on this occasion at 1700) to show the ship was turning. However Caroline were not the only station to have the news interrupted as on BBC Radio Four, at 1900 the same evening a buzzer was set off during their bulletin. Caroline had the advantage though as at 1700 the next day the ship to shore radio was heard in the background.

On March 28th the Ross Revenge broke away from her regular position in the South Falls, and drifted towards the North just above the South Falls Sandbank, the result noted on air was the announcement of Sea conditions in the North Falls. With the anchor chain broken a replacement had to be taken out to the ship whilst the temporary anchor held position. This was done, whilst after 5 weeks of duty a crew change was also made (April 2nd) Slightly confusing to follow due to the weekend scheduling on the previous day (Good Friday) which was a Bank Holiday in the United Kingdom. So Saturday saw the return of some names, all known to regular listeners. They were James Day, Richard Lee, Paul Graham and Peter Phillips. Chris Kennedy was the only member of the on air crew who remained on board from the previous crew change. The station left the air for a few hours in the early evening.

Sunday April 3rd was celebrated as Radio Caroline's 24th birthday (just one year to the Silver Jubilee) this naturally made the Newsweek News and a few cards and wishes were read out during the day, No special programmes were noted until 2100 when a mystery presenter under name of, we believe Pat. No further details were given as he "didn't want to give the game away." We were therefore rather thrown when Anoraks UK reported him as Ad, possibly being former Caroline and Monique DJ Ad Roberts - he did sound rather English but there again the Dutch, especially Ad were always rather good at that! Any idea out there?

Caroline 558 was off air Easter Monday Anoraks UK report that a tug being used to tow the Ross Revenge back to the South Falls was seriously damaged on this day, the ship was later towed by a larger vessel.

Chris Kennedy continued to present the Breakfast show and Peter Phillips resumed hosting the morning programme when Caroline returned on the Tuesday morning. The full line up read thus;

0500 Chris Kennedy
0900 Peter Phillips
1300 Richard Lee
1700 Paul Graham
2100 James Day
0100 Closedown.

Richard Lee incorrectly announce 24 hour operation on more than one occasion but this was later corrected. Some new promotions were heard for Lotto 649 at Easter these listing people who have "Got Lucky" with prizes announce in Canadian Dollars. The Lotto Commercials for the Canadian Bet

Canada organisation are the only ones to be heard on the station at present with the exception of the Caroline Rock Show promotions. The station left the air on Friday April 8th and was also off the air on the Saturday, returning mid morning Sunday, although a carrier was noted as early as 0850. A 2 hour break was later taken between 1700 and 1900 for aerial maintenance. Peter Phillips was noted to be missing from the schedule, so from Monday James Day took over the morning programme whilst Richard Lee and Paul Graham hosted two hours each of the final slot.

The Short Wave service which had been missing for several days was noted once more on April 13th, but on the new channel of 6215, again with the 558 service being relayed.

On April 16th we noted that the frequency had been shifted again. This time to 6205.

TECHNICAL POINTS

The Shortwave service finally came into action on February 23rd, although audio quality was distorted for the first few days of transmission. After these initial problems a clearer signal came forth from the transmitter which has been operating at 5 kilowatts, half its capacity. With the signal on 6210 being sharper than the bassy sound of 558 many people chose to hear the short wave channel. It is thought that the Short Wave channel will run for at least a month whilst the religious backers are satisfied with the response. This is unlikely to be a problem as it has been received in the United States and New Zealand already due to publicity given in many Dx programmes around the International bands. Once ready the religious programming will be transmitted in four six hour blocks with tape minders on board the Ross Revenge.

With the 558 aerial back in position the next major task is the restart of Radio Monique on 819kHz. Work has already commenced on refurbishing the on air studio, and on the deck a new experimental Carbon Fibre aerial, looking rather like a giant smartie tube will be erected. FRS Goes Dx reports that a new format will be introduced along with a fresh jingle package for 819. It is assumed that Viewpoint will also recommence with Monique.

PEOPLE

It was great to hear a more settled line up on 558 over the past few weeks, although some of the jocks having longer stints might have thought otherwise they were however able to provide a certain amount of continuity. The new staff have been Robbie Jay, a Southerner who has programmed well apart from his initial habit of announcing "Live from the North Sea" every other record. Welcome Robbie. Greetings also to American Alex. A barman by trade, he was serving at a bar where Caroline leader Ronan O'Rahilly regularly plays pool for money and was invited on to the station, being his first job at a radio station. His relaxed style made very pleasant listening. He is the first American jock on the station since the departure of John Ford in early 1986.

Paul Graham was last on Caroline August 31st, 1987. He is the oldest member of the current crew. In his forties he is the only member who can remember Caroline in 1964.

M.V. COMMUNICATOR

Conflicting reports suggest the former home to Laser will be scrapped or has been sold to another buyer. We await reliable information.

FM	88	92	96	100	104	108	MHz		
SW	6.0	6.5	8.0	10.0	13.0	18.0	MHz		
	4.5 M		4.1 M		3.1 M		2.5 M		
MW	54	60	70	80	100	120	140	160	kHz
LW	150	170	190	220	250	270	285	kHz	

M.V. NANNEL

Extra money has now been put into the project, allegedly by the vessel's current owners the Harvey Brothers. Together with other backers a 100 kw transmitter has been purchased. If this is brought into use it would make the station the biggest Offshore operation ever attempted. A new backer has purchased the Nannel on lease with the option to buy at a later stage. She remains anchored off the Spanish coast.

Short Wave GREAT BRITAIN

ALTERNATIVE VATICAN RADIO (1) made one of their infrequent appearances, February 14th on 6250. The station was only noted between 1209 and 1217, enough time for a theme tune a couple of IDs and about three tracks. One wonders the purpose of the station, we assume it is a wind up, but 6250 is the actual frequency used by the real Vatican Radio and on a Sunday morning it is hardly being fair on those who want to hear programmes from the Vatican State. A Change of address was noted from 3 Rosewarne Cottages but bearing in mind that address was unauthorised don't wait too long for a reply.

RTR-(2) were noted on February 21st with a test transmission of 6210, on a morning when Radio Caroline were not on the channel. Presenter Steve Masters is a Caroline staffer himself, and was to reappear on the Radio ship a few days later. On RTR Steve followed an all hits format. After his latest stint on Caroline Steve made a reappearance with RTR on April 10th, on this day a rock programme was also heard. The following week RTR made a late morning broadcast on 6258, as Caroline were using 6205 at that time.

The SCOTTISH FREE RADIO NETWORK (3) continue to be heard on a number of frequencies in the 48 and 41 metre bands. Regular channels include 6240 (Via Radio Rainbow; Ireland), 6318, 7428 and 7490. WLR is the most regular of the Scottish stations in the net with John Dean responsible for most of the programming here, including the Free Radio Update which can be heard on 6240 at Midday every Sunday. In this hourly programme John reads a selection of excerpts from the latest Free Radio publications. However on more than one occasion WLR has been noted with programmes going out on three outlets, each with different programming. This has been remedied in part, when on April 17th the regular third Sunday broadcast on 6318 carried a full music programme whilst the 6240 channel continued with the Free Radio Update. The 6318 broadcasts have also included the Radio Nordsee Story which has not been heard on air for a considerable time. Joining John Dean for some of the broadcasts has been Luis Nieto. Also heard in the Network are Radio Stella with Jock Wilson and CRUSIN' SOLID GOLD RADIO. During the Easter Day broadcast from Crusin' DJ Kenny King presented the programme with a broken arm. Comment was given to the jammer tone which had reappeared the previous month following its first manifestation at Christmas. Kenny thanked those listeners who had persevered despite the poor reception conditions caused by the jammer.

RADIO ORION (4) continue on Most Saturdays and Every Sunday on either 6300 or 6290. The changes in frequency is due to the appearance of local Irish station WABC on 6300 resulting in what at best could be described as a mess. On Good Friday, April 1st with Mike Wilson getting up late, and not being able to think of a particularly good April Fool a Relay of the BBC's Radio WM was made on 6233, before moving to 6290 at 1014.

RADIO PAMELA (5) were heard on 6224 February 28th, and again on March 20th. Following the recent Court Case station Manager Steve Most received the studio equipment back, brought to his house by the Police on February 18th. Transmitter power on both the medium wave and short wave transmitters has now been increased to 110 watts. Some new QSL cards are currently being printed by PIN Magazine.

RADIO APOLLO (6) returned to 6285 on March 13th after a short absence. The broadcast included an interview conducted by Mike Davis with Dave Windsor at Radio Wyvern, shortly before he left to join BFES in Gibraltar. Also heard in the interview was John Lewis another ex-Caroline member, currently working at Wyvern. A regular competition is run by the station giving listeners the chance to win 5 International Reply Coupons if they mention Mike Davis in their reception reports. Apollo was noted again on April 17th.

RADIO FAX (7) is the name of a new service heard for the first time on Good Friday. Describing itself as "The Trade Station" Radio Fax broadcast a clear sharp signal on 6220, switching to 1611 medium wave at 7pm each evening, continuing through the night. With Good Friday being April 1st it was suggested that Radio Fax could have been a rather elaborate April Fools stunt, however reliable information Wavelength has received suggests this is not the case. Programme content consisted of reports taken from the press on recent media, and audio developments - The Saturday programmes contained a rerun of the Radio Netherland Media Network programme, and it has been suggested that much of the material used by the station came from the Radio Netherland English language transcription service, and not specially prepared as first appeared. It was read with occasional breaks for AOR type music, by Roger Tate and an unnamed female announcer, and broadcast in two hourly repeated cycles. Whilst it was announced that the station was hoping to apply for a licence in order to avoid hiring transmission facilities abroad the up to date content from the British Press indicates possible UK transmission. The station was monitored through until Easter Monday and is expected to return in the summer. Radio Fax was featured in Media Network on April 14th.

WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO (8) were one of few stations who managed to beat through the long skip conditions on Easter Monday. WMR were heard on 6317 with a programme hosted by Dave Anderson during which letters in response to the highly successful Christmas broadcast were read. A comment has been made from their Mailing address that it has not been mentioned enough by the station, which makes a change from some short wave broadcasters.

RADIO EAST COAST COMMERCIAL (6) were on the air April 10th, a week after their normal 1st Sunday schedule which had been missed due to technical problems. The transmitter had been switched on to the new 6815 frequency, however the modulation transformer blew immediately resulting in an hour and a half of blank carrier. The station has said that the reason for the frequency change to a channel well away from 48 metres is due to the overcrowding of that band coupled with some stations having an unnecessarily large bandwidth and others with a total disregard to their fellow stations.

WFL- WONDERFUL FREE RADIO LONDON (6) will be celebrating their second birthday in the May broadcast and hope to use 41 metres, as well as their regular 48 metre band channel of 6300 which has come in for some interference from Irish station WABC. The 41 metre band will carry some programming different to that on 48 metres, in addition some further changes to the station will be announced.

BRI- BRITAIN RADIO INTERNATIONAL (1 & 9) repeated the March 4th Sunday broadcast on Good Friday due to long skip conditions. Testing of 6304 in anticipation of the new second Sunday oldies service is now complete and this should begin in May. A new newsletter should now be available.

IRELAND

WABC (10) who operate out of Coleraine in Northern Ireland commenced a relay of their local medium wave service in early March. The station was noted on 6315 March 13th, moving later to 6310. The following Sunday the channel was noted as being 6298 and WABC have continued on or around 6300 daily from early in the morning until mid afternoon. The station follows a Hot Hits format and has re-recorded some of the Laser Hot Hits jingle package with their own Bill Mitchell Voice Overs. Unfortunately there have been several frequency clashes with other users of that part of the band. - See What's the Point - .

WESTSIDE RADIO (11) remain one of the bands most regular Sunday Morning broadcaster: on their regular 6280 frequency. A test on 6820 was made on April 3rd according to a report by Anoraks UK.

EUROPE

RADIO NEW WAVE (12) are a Dutch station, noted for the first time here on March 13th with a test programme on 6280, before Westside Radio. New Wave provided a clear strong signal. We hope to hear full programming from them in the future.

RADIO BLOND PIRATE (12) - love the name - have been logged on various frequencies in the 48 metre band with continuous music and announcements, for example on March 20th when they were heard on 6267, and later on 6245 where they made a CSO request. They were heard again on Easter Sunday, once more on 6267.

FRS HOLLAND(13) were back on the air April 17th, having missed the previous two months broadcasts as no suitable transmission facilities were available although the frequency used was their former 6205 channel the actual one used was 6258. The move being necessary due to the presence of Caroline on 6205. Popular English presenter Mark Stafford has now joined the station. Mark is known through his work with RBL English Service of the French FM station which broadcasts to the Kent Coastal area, and Atlanta Radio, the short wave station with which he has been associated.

RADIO WAVES INTERNATIONAL (14) who are heard most Sundays on 6271 have a new format which commenced at the beginning of the year. It is

0800 RWI English Service
0830 RWI French Service
0900 Relay outlets
1000 Radio Luce
1100 RWI Goes Dx
1130 Second Relay outlet
1230 RWI 60s Sounds.

Amongst the relay stations are Radio Pogo 104 who recently had a jingle package recorded by Wavelength Productions, Radio Indigo, Radio Luce and Radio SOUTHSEA, who received twelve letters for their January broadcast. They can be heard by Radio Waves listeners twice a month and are looking for new DJs to record 60 and 90 minute programmes. (5)

A selection of Free Radio recordings from the East and West Midlands can be obtained from the Free Radio Monitoring Service for the East Midlands. Amongst the stations featured are Cosmos Radio, Radio Freedom (Derby), HCR and Mainline Radio and are supplied on TIK 90 minute tapes at the minimal cost of £1.50 including postage. Tape exchanges can be arranged. Write to FRMSEM, John Hickling, 23, Moorgreen, Newthorpe, Nottingham, NL16 2FD. Regular Free radio reports are produced monthly. Send at least a SAE.

ADDRESS BOOK

- 32 Victoria Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 3NG
- Po Box 140, Ashford, Kent .
- 23 South Beechwood, Edinburgh, EH12 5TR, Scotland.
- 82B Edgewood Road, Rednall , Birmingham, B45 8SG -
Please do not mention the word 'Radio' on the envelope
- 10 Bromyard Crescent, Paulsgrove, Portsmouth, PO6 3SP.
- Po Box 5, Hunstanton, Norfolk, PE36 5AU.
- 1 High Ash Farm, Caistor St. Edmund, Norfolk, NR14 8RH.
- 42 Arran Close, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge, England.
- Postbus 19074, 3501 DB, Utrecht, The Netherlands.
- Po Box 1242 Coleraine, County Londonderry, Northern Ireland.
- 310 Collins Avenue West, Dublin 9, Ireland.
- Postbus 536, Hooveen, The Netherlands.
- Postbus 41, 7700 AA, Dedemsvaart, The Netherlands.
- BP 130 92504 Rueil Malmaison, Cedex, France.

LISTENER'S GUIDE

TABLE OF REGULAR FREE RADIO BROADCASTERS.

6205	Radio Caroline	International Waters	Daily
6224	Radio Pamela	GB	Alternate Sundays
6240	Radio Rainbow (Including Relays)	IRL	Every Sunday
6271	Radio Waves International	F	Every Sunday
6280	Westside Radio (Including Relays)	IRL	Every Sunday
6290	Radio Orion	GB	Most Saturdays and Every Sunday.
6295	Radio Krystel	GB	4th Sunday
6300	Radio Orion (Subject to use by WABC, otherwise 6290 is used)	GB	Most Saturdays and Every Sunday except 2nd Sunday
	WFRL:Wonderful Free Radio London	GB	2nd Sunday
6304	BRI:Britain Radio International	GB	2nd,4th and 5th Sundays
6318	Scottish Free Radio Network	GB	Every Sunday
6815	Radio East Coast Commercial	GB	1st Sunday
7428	Scottish Free Radio Network	GB	Every Sunday
7490	Scottish Free Radio Network	GB	Most Sundays
Other regular stations with no fixed schedule/ Frequency			
6285	Radio Apollo	GB	
	RTR (6210, 6258)	GB	
	FRS Holland		3rd Sunday

RADIO EAST COAST COMMERCIAL COMPETITION

During February and March Radio East Coast Commercial ran a competition over 6310 with the prize of the 1988 World Radio and TV Handbook;

The Winner of the Competition was; Mr. Bradley Allen, Whitstable.

two runners up will each receive a cassette recording of a former popular short wave Free Radio station

Mr Stuart Allen, Halifax.

Mr Albert Ford, Plimstock, Devon.

The correct answers to the questions were;

1. Which current short wave free radio station often calls itself the Big'O' ?
Answer: Radio Orion.

2. What is the name of the former Radio Caroline Short Wave presenter that made a special programme for one of Britain Radio International's Christmas /New Year broadcasts ?
Answer; Freddie Archer.

3. Rebel Radio Network was aired under the call-signs Osaka 1 and Osaka 2 What are the names of two imaginary radio ships associated with these broadcasts.
Answer; Osaka 1 came from MV Ocean Myth, Osaka 2 came from MV Fuji Oil.

LONDON NEWS & GOSSIP

Andy Walker

Now the DTI's Radio Police, The RIS - Radio Investigation Service, have £400,000 in their pockets things are hotting up here in London, with raid after raid, and how the mighty have fallen. LWR, who seem to be Number One on the Hit List lost three transmitters in one week at the beginning of March, plus a raid on the Studio. After putting out a few carriers they returned on March 20th with a good signal over London, but not in Stereo.

The once untouchable TIME-FM have been hit also with at least two or three raids a week, and along with TKO and FRESH-FM it makes me wonder how long they can keep up with the RIS onslaught. My opinion is that they will try to kill off the major music stations first, then finish the smaller outfits. ROCK TO ROCK returned to the airwaves on March 10th after being off air for about four weeks following a fortnight of heavy raiding. Some Hot Gossip buzzing around town tells me, that a well known Soul station has been approached by the new backers of the m.v. Nanell, that's being fitted out in Spain, to run a second service from the Ship if and when it comes on the air. The gossip is backed up by the news that one of the big Soul stations may close down. Now if you are like me, you put two and two together and things start to fall into place. Why would a London FM station shut up shop to broadcast from a rusty old AM radio ship ? Putting things into perspective, with the DTI death bell hanging over the heads of the pirates, things start to fall into place. I've always thought that if a Soul station was to broadcast from the North Sea it would make a 100% killing. If a Soul station that used to broadcast to London should set up on the ocean waves, now that would stick two fingers up to Uncle Eric and the RIS, Wouldn't it ! But I hear you all saying, what's the name of this station Andy? Well, that's Hush Hush, but I will say, if they did start transmitting from the Nanell, they could save money on generator fuel, by using that system which gets power from the Sun! Now what's it called ?

More scandal which is very naughty and again puts two and two together. SKY RADIC used to broadcast from a pub in Dulwich, South London, using a power of 500 watts. Now, SKY weren't raided very often, if at all, which

made me think something was going on. A friend of mine who lives just around the corner from this pub tells me that she was in the local shop the other day, when she heard a Man shouting about how bad the noise was outside the pub at night. She overheard that half of the Dulwich Police force went all night drinking in there. When my friend told him there used to be a Pirate radio station in there he said action would be taken! He told my friend that he helped run the local Neighbourhood Watch. So, putting two and two together, and I hate to say it. Were Sky Radio getting Police Protection against the DTI.

After many problems with presenters NMR decided to call it a day when it was found the Tx had gone from the roof of the tower block it was broadcasting from, and with the DTI's £400,000 to clear the band. The station could have kept going but money was getting low, so we are waiting for the White Paper on broadcasting to come out and hopefully go for a licence. Leading the way in oldies over London, HITS-FM have also been in trouble. Transmitters have been taken, but not by the DTI. They will also have to get their programme tapes running to time, as they are sometimes slow by 15 minutes which sounds very bad. At one point the station said it was closing down at 11.30, and after a few minutes of dead air came on through until 1.30. Maybe a classic case of putting the wrong programme in the machine!

It's good to see London Pirate DJs in the charts with big hits. Ex KISS DJ and owner of the defunct WBLS Derek B(olan) with "Good Grove", also Kiss Jocks Matt Black and Jonathan More of COLDCUT with "Doctor in the House" and Simon Harris "Bass(How Low can you go)" Money made from those records should help buy a few transmitters, shouldn't it!

Over the Easter Holidays the Airwaves were alive on all channels. The DTI had a mass busting spree for over a week. New station London Irish Community Radio 89.5 took to the airwaves in Stereo, with Classic Radio up around 105.5 A really bad sounding Soul Station, whose operators seem to know nothing about Radio Broadcasting. All stations were on air over Easter with the exception of Radio TKO which hasn't been heard from since a full studio and transmitter bust back in mid-March. I wait to see if the wrath of the DTI strikes again, and if newcomers London Irish Community Radio who are on 7 days survive a DTI onslaught.

Finally why does Now Radio's enterprising editor Howard Rose want to know if there are any clear frequencies on FM in London, Until next time.

NORTH WEST

MERSEYSIDE.

STORETON COMMUNITY RADIO returned recently to 1026, but were raided by the DTI. They are off the air at present but are expected to return soon.

RADIO MERSEY WAVES are operating a Friday-Monday schedule on 1242, but this is extended at times.

RADIO ATLANTIS are also on the air regularly, again with a Friday to Monday schedule, on 1197.

CONCEPT RADIO are on the air Sundays using 104.3. Their contact address; 13 Kipling Avenue, Rock Ferry, Birkenhead, L49 2DH

RADIO JULIE are heard at weekends on 104.8, which often creates mutual interference with Radio Veronica. Both News and Music are often carried from nearby ILR station Marcher Sound. 144 Big Meadow Road, Birkenhead L49 9AN is the address here.

RADIO VERONICA - 104.7 continue most weeks, although Easter Sunday was missed for staff Holidays and March 20th following studio problems. 81 Lark Lane, Liverpool L7 8UP is the mailing address.

ECR: Eastham Community Radio have been off the air since Mid March due to location problems.

MANCHESTER.

A lot of raids of late but stations normally operating are IBC on 104.4 and ICR on 103.5 both daily. From Stockport WBSL operates on 102.4

MIDLANDS

John Hickling

The radio scene is gradually picking up on the FM bands with both MAINLINE RADIO INTERNATIONAL (105.5) and RADIO FREEDOM (105) heard recently. Of course PCR (105) keeps the most constant broadcast schedule being heard everyday with a strong stereo signal. I've heard local rumours that HCR is controlled by a bunch of Rastafarians sitting in the back of a van somewhere in Hyson Green (this is not to be taken too seriously).

EAST MIDLANDS.

Lerby. . . Radio Freedom (105.0 Mhz FM)

On March 23rd after a long absence RADIO FREEDOM returned, the announcer Dave Collins said it was an "AOR Test Transmission" (Alternative or Adult Orientated Rock Music station) The transmitter power was lower than usual. The announced frequency was 105 Mhz, yet no interference to HCR on the same channel was noticable.

Nottingham. . . Heatwave Community Radio (105.0 Stereo FM)

Although the DFI may be present in Nottingham it is surprising how rarely HCR's broadcasts have been silenced; if at all they're usually back on the air within 4 hours. One interesting occurrence is that BBC Radio Derby (104.5) has included an extra frequency on 95.4 Mhz - this may be due to splatter from HCR which probably drifts off frequency every now and again. One contact address is "HCR c/o The People's Bakery, Radford Road, Radford, Nottingham." Another contact for the station is via "Daddy's Record Store" on Bertick Road, Hyson Green in Nottingham.

Mainline Radio International (105.5 Mhz FM)

This reggae station has a rather irregular broadcasting pattern. When they do operate the audio often sounds distorted. They operate on a lower power than HCR. The main presenter on this station calls himself "Rankin' Soya" A 'Hotline' telephone number direct to the studio was given as 0860-366-598. When this service isn't in operation a brief recorded message can be heard. During the 10th March MAINLINE were also receivable on an unannounced frequency around 107 Mhz.

WEST MIDLANDS

Birmingham. . . Enterprise (91.9 Mhz FM)

The late night broadcasts can still be regularly logged in Nottingham; on DJ heard on March 9th goes by the name "The Doctor".

Asian Station (105.7 Mhz FM)

Weak signals from North East Birmingham could just be received in Nottingham; its not clear what the name of the station was. A male presenter spoke in both English and Asian languages.

SOUTH

ABC RADIO were noted broadcasting to the Eastbourne area on 105.3 March 6th. Transmissions normally take place once a month and put out a strong signal in nearby Hastings. 128 King Fisher Drive is the address. - Mark Heffer

On Easter Monday Isle of Wight station CHANNEL RADIO were noted at 12 noon broadcasting on 105 FM in Stereo to the Solent area with a Pop/Oldies format. The station was broadcasting throughout the afternoon with a very good signal along the Solent. The station did not give out any mailing address

David Williams

Christopher J. Cooper

As we bucked our way out of harbour I surveyed my eleven companions. Together we were an interesting cross section of society. We had the "two Davids" (then but not as now!) Prewett and Fanning, Martin Rosen, the two rockers, a radio personality in the form of Paul Kramer ex-Radio City DJ and five others. It must have taken 1½ - 2 hours in that lively sea to make the short journey from Harwich to 3½ miles off Frinton-on-Sea. The skipper told me that Bill Scadden was probably in the coastguard station at Walton keeping an eye on things.

At long last the shape of the Mi Amigo cleared on the Horizon. It seemed an eternity before we finally reached the ship. The sea was a lot calmer than earlier, but a very heavy swell persisted. The radio ship wallowed, pitched and rolled in a fashion which was almost unique to that vessel. It might have looked alarming but was in fact quite benign for those on board. However there was no question of getting aboard the Mi Amigo. This was strictly a ship to visit. Our skipper had circled the Mi Amigo a couple of times, and conditions out on the windward side were fairly frisky. If I hadn't been so happy to have arrived at this living legend, I would probably have been very sick. Happily I wasn't. We made it back to the leeward side of the ship, and thanks to the skill of our skipper he kept his trawler about 15-20 feet from the side of the Mi Amigo and held her on station for 30-40 minutes with deft use of the engine and rudder.

Apart from the DJ "On air" at the time of our arrival, all the staff and crew came out on deck. After the initial greeting to and from each boat, the twelve of us proceeded to sing a couple of Christmas Carols. Officially the purpose of our journey was advertised as "A Carol Service on the North Sea off Frinton". It wasn't supposed to fool anybody, least of all the authorities on land, but it focussed in on the festive time of year, and in every sense we brought greetings and good news from distant lands. The listeners had not forgotten the few. After the Carols finished some "confectionary" was passed to those on board. We all knew that this small and almost symbolic act was appreciated by all on the Radio Ship.

Thirty to forty minutes was not that long to be at Caroline. But every minute was a joy. Robbie Dale, Johnnie Walker, Roger Day, Spangles Muldoon (I think) an American DJ called Bud Balou or something similar are the names I remember most from that first Christmas in Exile. It was so murky that day and with daylight failing too, nobody from shore could have seen anything of our visit at this stage. I called out for a dedication to be played for a girl I knew called Penny living in Aylesbury. It was read out at once, and miles away on land she heard it at home with her mother, I was to find out later. It is a long time ago, but I think the record played was something about "Pagadena and the A Train" Help - does anybody know the record to which I refer?

Finally the skipper said we must go. Darkness would be total in about an hour so we had to be underway. With much shouting we pulled away. The state of the sea was getting calmer all the time, and the effect of tide and current was in our favour on the return journey. By now we were all good friends I chatted with Paul Kramer about life on Radio City out on the Shivering Sands fort. On hearing that I had been a listener to Radio 390 from the fort next door at Red Sands, he quickly told me that the two stations had very little in common. Radio 390 employed announcers and not jocks, and he didn't know any of them personally. However he did admit that it was a very popular station. Paul was informed about music and radio, had a very pleasant personality, and would have been described by the opposite sex as pretty dishy. Like all of us youngsters in the late sixties starting out on life he had everything to live for and a lot of talent to give back. I was very upset some months later to hear that Paul was killed when run down in a traffic accident in London. This news was secondhand, but I believe it was the same Paul Kramer and sadly correct.

When we arrived back at Harwich the overnight ferry to the Hook of Holland was just departing in a blaze of deck lights. It looked so warm and comfortable, and safe, a far cry from our own conditions of the last few hours. As we came ashore, most felt a warm glow inside despite the conditions experienced. The exception was the pill popping pair of rockers, who climbed ashore and immediately emptied the contents of their stomachs over the quay. They went their own way soon after, but most of us found a restaurant/cafe open late in the High Street and rested there for refreshment before going home. We were amazed that no customs attention was attracted on either the outward or return journey. I really had half expected to spend the night at the local nick. Perhaps the Christmas spirit was recognised even by authority. It was a special occasion and we were all damn glad we had gone. As far as is known the only other boat out to the Mi-Amigo that Christmas had been arranged by one of the record companies, and had sailed some time earlier the same week. We all went home happy that night but totally shattered. I never thought that I would make a similar trip ever again. But I never thought Radio Caroline would be broadcasting 20 years later from the North Sea.

Well that brings my personal DRIFTBACK to a close. You may be wondering how Ken, Terry and I got on last Summer. Well let me say just this. I am 20 years older, I still can't swim, a problem in one of my ears means that I have very little sense of balance even on dry land, but I still think the principal of Free Radio is worth supporting, that the L.A. message from Caroline needs to work in today's world, and that the International Waters of the North Sea is a pretty good place to express an opinion. So 20 years later I spent an even longer period of time out at sea, and saw the third of fourth generation of the Caroline family at work on the Ross Revenge. And once again at the end of the day I was well shattered. But that's another story. I really think somebody else should be telling you that one. If they don't, and if Caroline and I are both here in the year 2007, well then I might just slip a piece of paper into the typewriter.

Andy Walker

One of my main bug-bears at the moment are the Irish Shortwave operators, who not only relay their stations' programmes, but also take up several frequencies with the amount of bandwidth they are putting out. Short wave is a very crowded place at the moment, especially around the 48 metre band, where most pirates operate on a Sunday, so in a limited amount of space, what is the point in stations from Ireland putting out their local radio programmes on Short wave. Personally speaking I think that it's madness and boring. If you've heard one station you've heard them all, with the exception of a few. At the time of writing WABC are on 6299, 48 metres playing Top Forty music. Any listener with a brain wouldn't listen to Top Forty on short wave, they would tune into their own local station and listen to the hits on FM, and maybe in Stereo. So what's the point? Is it nobody listens (or very few) to their medium wave or FM outlets in Ireland, and they want to get more listeners? Obviously with limited space Irish stations take up channels, leaving the real Sunday pirates looking for other frequencies to transmit on. I can't see the point of broadcasting on Short wave without special programmes for the Short wave listener, that's what short wave is for, The Dxr hobbiest, people who live in outlying areas and rely on short wave broadcasts for News, Views and Music other than the Top Forty. I myself like to listen to Short Wave, and also on a Sunday I like to hear the Free Radio stations with Free Radio News, bits and pieces, and whatever and music other than the Top Forty. So if I wish to listen to Radio Orion for some rock music I don't want to hear a plastic type Laser Radio blasting out Pop Music next to, or under Orion. At least Radio Dublin had the sense to use a frequency out of the 48 metre band away from the real pirate stations.

If you listen to 48 metres on a Sunday let me ask you a question; How many times have you heard that tape of non-stop music with Wonderful Radio London and other old jingles go out on 6240? Answer; Loads of times. Any one can switch on a powerful transmitter and put out anything, especially

non-stop music, but why block up a frequency with a load of nothing, when it could be put to use by a station wanting to broadcast good and informative programmes. Another grievance is the bandspread of the 6240 transmitter which gets more than 10 kHz up and down the band. A blatant noise and disregard to other operators who cannot use frequencies which are immediately either side of the channel. We cannot class the Irish stations as being the same as other countries in Europe, even if they have no licence to broadcast they don't have to put up with raids and the undercover operations as we do here in England. We British stations always have to move frequency because of Irish stations disregard to stations that were using certain channels first. I'm not saying we own Radio frequencies, No one does, but the Irish stations don't care where they go, even if it is on frequencies regularly used by British operators, common sense would prevail to look and listen first, not the irresponsible Irish operators, they just do not seem to care. WABC on 6299, used by Orion and WFR. Radio East Coast Commercial used 6230, then on came Rainbow so they had to move away from the splatter of the high powered 6240 transmitter. There's no justice in there. Now that I have annoyed and delighted some readers with my comments next time an Irish radio station starts broadcasting on top of your favourite Sunday pirate, don't put pen to paper just for another CSL card, they are not just ruining the jammed station's output, they are ruining your enjoyment and entertainment. The right for you to listen to what you want to, not something you have to, that's what we're fighting against, Isn't it?

If you're like me, fed up with listening to your local BEC/IBA and Pirate stations, A World of wonderful radio stations are waiting to be received on your short wave radio, as you might know if you are a Dx'er. So next time there's nothing on the TV (or radio) tune in to, if you can a station which radiates from New Orleans in the good old USA. WRNO broadcasts 24 hours a day on the short wave, and can be heard all over the world. I've found the best time of day to tune in is late afternoon/early evening on 19 metres, 15.420 MHz, second best is 7355 MHz in the 41 metre band, after 0000 UTC.

WRNO was the first privately-owned commercial short wave radio station in the United States, and is owned by Gulf South Broadcasters which also operates WRNO-FM in New Orleans, KKAY-AM in White Castle, KGLA-AM in Gretna, KYOR-FM in Thibodaux, and KSMI-FM in Donaldville all in the state of Louisiana. WRNO was granted the licence in November 1981, and came on the air on February 13th, 1982. The studios and offices are located along with those of WRNO-FM, in the WRNO building in Metairie, Louisiana. They beam the programming to the transmitter with a microwave linking system which is around 12 miles away. The station uses a 100 kilowatt Harris Short wave transmitter, which is fed into a log periodic antenna with a 14dB gain, which produces an effective radiated power of 3,200,000 watts. The antenna is oriented 20 degrees off true north and has a 68 degree beam width and a 21 degree take off angle.

The programming consists of the Top Contemporary hits in the United States feature programmes on New Orleans Jazz, Food and Cooking and other local cultural glimpses of life in South Louisiana. WRNO has been heard in every State in America, Every province in Canada, throughout South and Central America, also Africa, The Caribbean, The Pacific, The Middle East, and all across Europe. Other listening areas have been Japan, Australia and some Communist-Bloc countries.

WRNO offer special limited edition CSL Cards from time to time and these are announced on the air. If you wish to write for a full list of current times, frequencies and programme schedules the address is;

WRNO-Worldwide,
Po Box 100
New Orleans
Louisiana 70181
United States of America.

Lets keep listening out there!